

October 7, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CONTRACTING OFFICERS AND NEGOTIATORS

TO: DISTRIBUTION LIST FAC
FROM: Rodney W. Johnson, Director, M/OP
SUBJECT: SBA Certification Required for SDB Status Benefits

CONTRACT INFORMATION BULLETIN 99 - 21

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has reminded us of the expiration of its provision for self-certification of small disadvantaged business (SDB) status for the purpose of receiving benefits. As of October 1, 1999, you may not permit an offeror to claim preferences under self-certification of SDB status in open competition procurements. Neither may you permit a prime contractor to claim credit for subcontract awards to self-certified SDB concerns under SDB subcontracting plans. To be eligible for a benefit based on SDB status after that date, an SDB concern must be certified by SBA.

You may verify the status of a certified SDB concern on SBA's Pro-Net Internet web site, <http://pro-net.sba.gov/>, or by contacting SBA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Certification and Eligibility (SDBC&E) on:

Phone (202) 619-1850
FAX (202) 401-8283
E-Mail SDB@SBA.Gov

If an apparently successful offeror indicates that it has an application pending for certification with SBA, you must notify SDBC&E of a pending award, and it will make a determination on the offeror's status within 15 days from the date of notification. If you must make an award within 15 days or if SBA does not notify you of its status determination within 15 days, follow the procedures in FAR 19.304(d).

USAID's OSDBU/MRC requests that you keep it apprised of a request for notification of SDB certification when there is

a pending award, and it will facilitate, at your request, contacting SBA and obtaining SBA's response. Please contact it on:

Phone (202) 712-1500
FAX (202) 216-3056
E-Mail OSDBU@USAID.GOV

SBA advises us that numerous qualified SDB concerns have yet to be certified, and henceforth they will not be eligible for the benefits of its SDB program until their SDB status is certified. When the opportunity arises, please remind your non-certified SDB contractors of the certification requirement, and ask your large prime contractors to notify their SDB suppliers of the requirement and to encourage them to apply for the certification.